

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-13, 22-24, 26, 68, 70, 72-82, and 84 are pending in the application. Claims 2, 3, 14-21, 27-67, 69, 71, and 83 have been canceled without prejudice. Claim 23 is amended to clarify that a plant cell or yeast cell is exposed to the chemical inhibitor of mismatch repair to generate a hypermutable cell. No new matter is introduced by this amendment.

Applicants note with appreciation the withdrawal of a number of the prior rejections and receipt of an indication of allowability of claims 1, 4-13, 22, 72-82, and 84.

Claim 23 is patentable over Euler.

Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for alleged obviousness over Euler (CAPLUS Database, AN: 1948:32360, abstract only). Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection because it has not been established that the cited reference teaches or suggests the claimed subject matter.

Claims 23, 68, and 70 are patentable over Euler in view of Kimm and Laduca.

Claims 23, 68, and 70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for alleged obviousness over Euler in view of Kimm *et al.* (*Korean J. Biochemistry*, 14:1-8, abstract (1982)) and Laduca (Diss, Abstr Int [B], 55, 11, 4741 (1995) Database CancerLit). Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested because it has not been demonstrated that the cited references teach or suggest the claimed subject matter.

Claims 23 and 24 are patentable over Euler in view of Chakravarti.

Claims 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for alleged obviousness over Euler in view of Chakravarti *et al.* (*Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 92:10422-10426 (1995)). Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection because it has not been shown that the cited references teach or suggest the claimed subject matter.

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**PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116**

Claims 23, 24, 26, and 68 are patentable over Euler in view of Zhang.

Claims 23, 24, 26, and 68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for alleged obviousness over Euler in view of Zhang (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0064879 A1). Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested because it has not been established that the cited references teach or suggest the claimed subject matter.

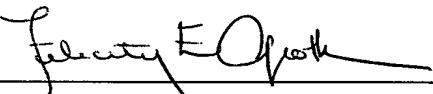
CONCLUSION

Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the undersigned may be contacted at 215-557-5908.

Respectfully submitted,

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Felicity E. Groth
Registration No. 47,042

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439